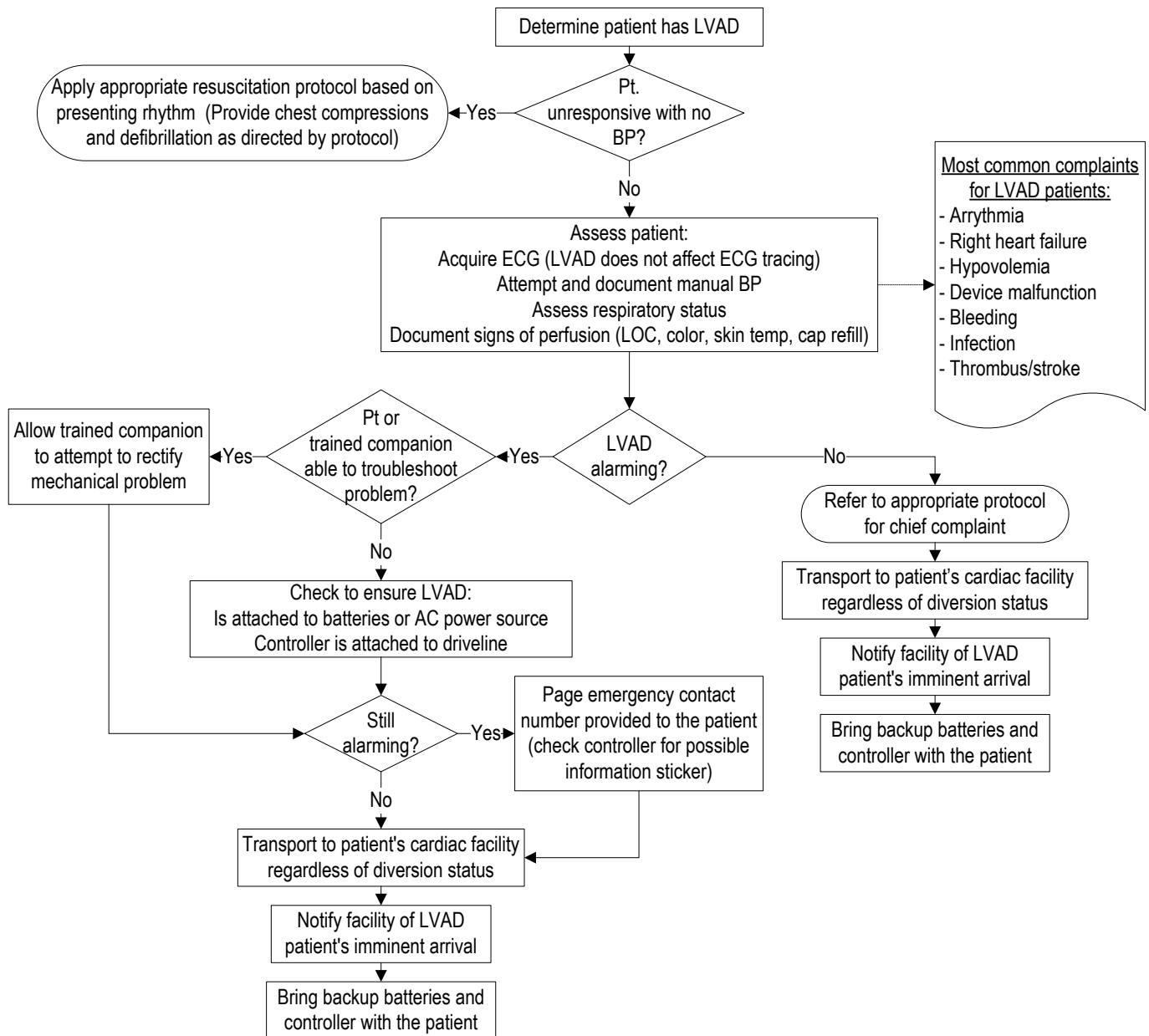


Initiated: 10/11/06
Reviewed/revised: 7/1/11
Revision: 2

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
STANDARD OF CARE
LEFT VENTRICULAR
ASSIST DEVICES**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
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NOTES:

- Axial and Centrifugal Flow LVADs **do not generally produce a palpable pulse in the patient.** Assess for other signs of adequate perfusion (alert, warm skin, capillary refill).
- Axial and Centrifugal Flow LVADs produce very narrow pulse pressures (5 – 15 mm Hg). **This is normal for the device!** Use only manual blood pressure cuffs on these patients and don't be concerned if you can't detect a blood pressure.
 - When assessing blood pressure, you may only hear one change in sound. Document this as the systolic BP. Mean pressure should be 60 – 90 mm Hg.
- **Unless the patient requires treatment for major trauma or burns, the closest appropriate facility is the patient's cardiac hospital, regardless of diversion status. If the patient receives cardiac care outside the Milwaukee area, the default receiving hospital is St. Luke's – Main Campus.** Be sure to inform the receiving hospital the patient en route has a LVAD.